REMARKS

Claims 14, 17-23 and 25 are currently active.

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 10-13 have been canceled in response to the restriction requirement.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 14, 17-23 and 25 as being unpatentable over Chiu in view of PNNI. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In relevant part, Chiu teaches a PNNI routing protocol which includes discovery of neighbors and link status; and synchronization of topology databases. PNNI builds the topology database based on information flooded to it by its peer PNNI entities and neighboring systems. Based on a destination address, PNNI calculates an output port as well as the complete source route to the destination. PNNI concludes two categories of protocols; (1) the protocol is defined for distributing it topology information among switches and clusters of switches. This information is used to compute paths through the network. A key feature of the PNNI hierarchy mechanism is its ability to automatically configure itself in networks in which the address structure reflects the topology. PNNI topology and routing is based on the well-known link-state running technique. The second category of the protocols is a second protocol

defined for signaling. See column 61, lines 18-53. This is all that Chiu teaches in regard to topology management.

Claim 14 has the limitation that "any one switch providing all of the configuration for all of the S switches". It is respectfully submitted that the examiner is reading this limitation into the teachings of Chiu. All that Chiu teaches is that PNNI builds the topology data base based on information flooded to it by its peer PNNI entities and neighboring systems. See column 61, lines 37-39. Thus, Chiu teaches that the topology data base is formed from the information sent to it by its peer PNNI entities. There is no teaching or suggestion that any one switch provides all the configuration information for all of the S switches, as is found in applicants' Claim 14. It is respectfully submitted that it is improper for the Examiner to assume that each switch has all the configuration information for all the other switches from the teachings of Chiu. Chiu does not teach this limitation and nowhere does it state or teach that any one switch has all the configuration information for all of the S switches, let alone provides all the configuration information for all the of switches. The teachings of Chiu only go as far as to state that the PNNI builds the topology data base from information flooded to it by its peer PNNI entities, where entities it is stressed is in the plural. This means, that Chiu teaches the topology data base is formed from information from many entities, not any one entity, as found in Claim 14.

As the Examiner also recognizes, Chiu fails to teach the limitation that "the configuration information includes a name of the switch, an IP address of the switch, a software version of the switch, and hardware type of the switch".

Chiu also fails to teach or suggest any type of query let alone an SNMP query that the switches send to each other to return retrieved configuration information from each other, and the switches respond to the SNMP queries by sending the requested configuration information to the other switches which sent the SNMP queries, as found in Claim 14.

As explained above, the teachings of Chiu only go as far as to state that the PNNI builds the topology data base based on information flooded to it. See column 61, lines 38. Nowhere does Chiu teach for the PNNI to actually send out queries to any of the other entities for configuration information.

In regard to FORE-Switch-MIB definitions paper, a review of this document simply shows that there may be certain information, although, applicants cannot find specifically the configuration information claimed in Claim 14 of a name of the switch, an IP address, a software version of the switch, and hardware type of the switch, taught in FORE-Switch-MIB definitions paper. Furthermore, nowhere does FORE-Switch-MIB definitions paper teach a topology data base with configuration information, nor any type of mechanism

for sending configuration information from the topology database to the network and for receiving configuration information from the network.

Accordingly, the applied art of record fails to teach the limitation in Claim 14 of any one switch providing all the configuration information for all of the S switches.

The applied art of record fails to teach the imitation of configuration information includes a name of the switch, an IP address of the switch, a software version of the switch, and hardware type of the switch.

The applied art of record fails to teach the limitation that the switches send SNMP queries to each other to return retrieved configuration information from each other, and the switches respond to the SNMP queries by sending the requested configuration information to the switches which sent the SNMP queries.

Accordingly, Claim 14 is patentable over the applied art of record. Claims 17, 18 and 22 are patentable for the reasons Claim 14 is patentable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections and objections to this application be reconsidered and withdrawn, and Claims 14, 17-23 and 25, now in this application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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